

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

AID-20 RSR-01 /115 W

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R 150850Z AUG 73

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO AMEMOASSY ISLAMABAD

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7449

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMCONSUL PESHAWAR

C O N F I D E N T I A L KARACHI 1457

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, MASS, PK, IR

SUBJECT: IRANIAN AIR FORCE HELICOPTERS OPERATING
IN BALUCHISTAN

REF: KARACHI 1374 (NOTAL)

KARACHI A-74, AUGUST 10, 1973

1. PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL (PPI) STAFF CORRESPONDENT
ASSIGNED RAWALPINDI SERVING TEMPORARILY FOR PAST
MONTH AS PPI CORRESPONDENT WITH PAK MILITARY IN MARRI
AREA OF BALUCHISTAN MET WITH A CONGEN OFFICER MONDAY
EVENING AUGUST 13. IN COURSE OF GENERAL DISCUSSION
OF SITUATION IN BALUCHISTAN PPI NEWSMAN SAID ALTHOUGH
ASSIGNED TO REPORT ACTIVITIES OF MILITARY IN MARRI
AREA, WHO HEADQUARTERED IN SIBI, HE WAS SPENDING
MOST OF HIS TIME IN QUETTA. HOWEVER, TO PREPARE A
STORY ON ARMY ROAD BUILDING ACTIVITIES (ENCLOSURE 1
REFAIR) HE HAD BEEN FLOWN FROM QUETTA TO DAULA WANGA,
AREA HEADQUARTERS OF ARMY ENGINEERS 10 MILES FROM
MAWAND ON NEWLY CONSTRUCTED MAWAND-KOHLU ROAD, IN
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IRANIAN AIR FORCE "CHINOOK" HELICOPTER MANNED BY

IAF PERSONNEL. WHEN QUERIED ABOUT WHAT THE IRANIANS WERE DOING THERE, NEWSMAN INDICATED 2 IAF CHINOOKS WERE BEING USED TO SUPPORT DISPERSED PAK MILITARY. ASKED IF THEY WERE FERRYING TROOPS HIS ANSWER WAS NOT DEFINITE, BUT LEFT THE IMPRESSION HELICOPTER'S BASIC MISSION WAS FERRYING SUPPLIES, INCLUDING WATER IN SOME CASES, AND MILITARY OFFICERS AND OFFICIALS TO REMOTE LOCATIONS. NEWSMAN ALSO SAID PAK MILITARY MAKING SOME USE OF THE SMALLER SOVIET-SUPPLIED MI-8 HELICOPTERS.

2. COMMENT: PREVIOUS REPORTS OF IRANIAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN BALUCHISTAN HAVE BEEN UNCORROBORATED (REFTEL), BUT WE INCLINED GIVE CREDENCE THIS REPORT SINCE SOURCE KNOWN TO US FOR SOME TIME AND CAN BE CONSIDERED RELIABLE. NEWSMAN'S ACCOUNT FOLLOWS LESS SPECIFIC REPORT LAST WEEK FROM KARACHI ADVOCATE JUST RETURNED FROM BUSINESS/HOLIDAY STAY IN QUETTA, WHO REMARKED OFF-HANDEDLY IN POSITIVE FASHION HE KNEW IRANIAN PLANES WERE IN QUETTA FROM HIS CONTACTS IN QUETTA PARSI COMMUNITY WHO GOOD FRIENDS WITH IRANIANS.

TIGER

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